PARIS	RIYADH	ROME
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TOKYO	VIENNA	WARSAW

Denial of Visa to former Bangladesh Prime Minister

4169. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have refused to give visa to the former Bangladesh Prime Minister Mahdud Ahmad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) for how long has the visa been denied ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) Mr. Moudud Ahmed was refused a visa in April 1997 because he had openly advocated the dismemberment of India. No visa application from Mr. Ahmad has since been received.

Time Period Fixed for Issuing a Passport

4170. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA' : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any time period has been fixed for preparing passports after submitting the applications;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) steps taken for making the procedure more quick and simple ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Passports are normally issued within five weeks provided the application is accurately filled with all the required documents and the clear Police Verification Report has been received. This period is being adhered to in most of the Passport Offices. Delays are due to seasonal rise in passport applications and shortage of staff.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The simplification and streamlining of procedures for issue of